

Washington Sentinel.

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLEY TUCKER.
CITY OF WASHINGTON.
MARCH 12, 1854.

Mr. E. K. LUNDY, bookseller, Bridge street, Georgetown, will act as agent for the Sentinel in receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

George W. Mason is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements, in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

Mr. George E. French, Bookseller, King street, Alexandria, is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions. Single numbers can be procured at his counter every morning.

To accommodate our advertisers we have placed a box at the store of Messrs. PATTERSON & NIXON, corner of 6th street and Pennsylvania avenue. Advertisements, or notices of responsible persons deposited there before six o'clock, p. m., will appear in our issue of the next morning.

Obituary and marriage notices must be endorsed by some person known to the publishers to insure their insertion.

Having been compelled to make a change in carriers in the western part of the city and Georgetown, some of our subscribers may not have received their papers regularly. We shall feel obliged to such, and those who have changed their places of residence, to inform us of the fact, as well as state their new places of abode.

Neither House of Congress was in session yesterday.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—PUBLIC GROUNDS.

The subject of providing new buildings for the State, War, Navy, and Interior departments, so long delayed, has been specially referred to a committee from whose action the best results may be anticipated.

The following are some of the reasons which require prompt action. There are cardinal points necessary to be considered in the erection of public buildings, viz: 1st, a fire-proof character; 2d, convenient arrangement, with abundant room; and, 3d, mutual proximity of the departments.

The buildings now occupied by these departments, possess none of these indispensable requisites, but on the contrary, by their absence, are constantly exposed to the most serious dangers and inconveniences.

The first great serious defect of the existing buildings, is their combustible character, keeping in perpetual jeopardy, documents of the highest value and last importance, the loss of which would be deplorable and irreparable. The loss of the public archives in these departments, would leave such great gaps in our history, would deprive the government of such indispensable information, in relation to our domestic, and particularly our foreign concerns, as would expose us to the most serious losses, annoyances, and inconveniences.

A Secretary of State stripped of the archives of his department, would in his intercourse with foreign nations, be placed in a situation alike so disadvantageous, perplexing, and mortifying, that posterity would, with great justice, brand us with a reckless disregard of the muniments of our history, our rights, and our glory; while we were wasting millions upon matters which could readily be deferred, and while we are actually paying in premiums for the privilege of redeeming a small portion of the national debt, in anticipation of its maturity, a larger sum than would be necessary to provide appropriate accommodations for the archives and offices of government. With the means in hand and no reasonable excuse for delay, if nothing more than security were obtained by appropriate buildings, it should suffice promptly and promptly to secure their erection.

The records of folly, in confiding valuable documents to combustible buildings, are sufficiently long and sad, of the destruction of documents, for the recovery of which, mankind would cheerfully pay a thousand times the additional cost which would have been requisite to render their depositories safe.

But there are other and pressing reasons to urge the immediate construction of these buildings. The business of the departments has so greatly augmented; the documents, models, instruments, cases, &c., have so multiplied, that all is confusion and constraint. There being no room for appropriate arrangement of the numerous documents, &c., there can be no stringent responsibility; and it may be safely asserted as a fact, that if a record were made of the losses of books and documents, they could not be replaced by an amount that would erect a suitable building.

There is also the essential element of mutual proximity; for although there are six departments, including the Attorney General's office, yet their duties are so interwoven, and their intercourse so constant, that it would be as convenient to dismember a department itself as to separate the departments one from the other. The incessant intercourse going on requires imperatively, for the proper facility of business, the closest contiguity; and this can be best attained, consistently with the strictest and truest economy, and securing at the same time the finest architecture; as one large building can be erected at a proportionally less cost than could several smaller ones of equal aggregate accommodation. As an architectural ornament, one large building is worth a dozen small ones, and will admit of superior arrangements. The annoyances of delay, which every member of Congress, and indeed every one having much business with the departments, must have experienced, from inability of instant intercourse, must have impressed them with the importance of contiguity. If, for instance, the Pension office were at a point distant as is the Patent office, the delay and confusion would be very great. A senator would go to the Pension office on business; in very many, probably in most cases, immediate resort is necessary to the Surgeon General's or to the Second Auditor's office; a messenger is despatched a distance, going and returning, of some fifteen squares, during which time the senator must wait; the messenger, unless he waits for written instructions, takes a verbal communication, liable half the time to be misstated or misapprehended. Meantime, the messenger has hardly left, when another senator or representative comes in; he

must wait until the messenger returns and goes again, unless another messenger be dispatched, in which case, as remarked by a distinguished senator, this segregating the departments would give occasion for a corps of messengers larger than both houses of Congress, and then very, very imperfectly supplying the advantages of mutual proximity, as it is well known that a personal conference of five minutes would settle a matter which through messengers would take a month, and just as likely to complicate as to adjust.

There are some of the reasons for mutual proximity. If there be a solitary reason on the other side, showing a greater facility for the transaction of public business, for economy, or to obtain architectural beauty, it has not hitherto been devised, or at any rate divulged.

The sites of the proposed buildings should be so selected as to leave to posterity no cause for regret. In regard to these matters there has been an universal error, alike by the national government, by States and by cities, all of which have had occasion bitterly to regret, having ceded or having encumbered ground which should have been kept sacred for the public benefit. Already we have, in this city, to deplore the unhappy policy which restricted to pitiful limits, the capitol grounds of a country destined in a few years to number one hundred and fifty millions of people; and there was one act of General Jackson which has rendered itself to universal commendation, to wit: that of enlarging the capitol grounds.

Perhaps no public verdict would be more unanimous than that the contemplated buildings should not be erected on the "President's square." The space there is already so small that to prevent intrusion upon buildings connected with the presidential mansion, the Treasury building was thrown forward some thirty feet from the site intended, and thus excluding the front steps originally intended, and so marring the general aspect of the front, as to render the entire architecture of the building one of a very questionable character. Similar results would flow from the erection of appropriate buildings on the sites of those now occupied by the War and Navy Departments.

The evils would be aggravated by the addition of two wings to the Treasury building and surrounding the President's mansion with a cordon of unsavory odors. Besides which, it is perfectly manifest that very extensive additions must be made to the White House, or an entirely new and greatly enlarged structure must be erected to meet the augmenting population of the city, and of the number of citizens from every quarter of the Union visiting Washington. Even now the rooms are crowded to suffocation—the very windows being converted into doors of exit—and the number would be greatly larger were the reception rooms sufficiently capacious for comfort.

The custom of having miles in the President's grounds may be considered as established, and abundant room should be given, and the grounds rendered accessible from the avenue, as would be the case when the buildings now occupying these beautiful grounds shall have been removed. It is to be hoped that this musical recreation, so universally acceptable, and so readily commanded by government, will be continued, and with every possible improvement. Government spends millions in architectural ornaments, all of which united cannot compare with the beauty of these grounds, when cleared from the disgraceful of the present buildings. Besides being ornamental in an eminent degree, these grounds would be no less healthful. If a building be erected without ornament, it would equally well fulfill all purposes of utility as would an ornate one, and it could, at any time, be replaced by one of any desired splendor, and if that should be destroyed, another can be erected on its site. A building at the moment of its completion has reached its zenith, alike for beauty as for use; it is no longer susceptible of improvement; it admits of no varying beauties; it is ever the same, except that the hand of time is busy in unceasingly hastening it to decay; its beauty is to the sense of sight alone. While these grounds will outlast a thousand successive gorgeous edifices, and in all that time, ever varying, ever changing, ever beautiful; glorious to the eye in all the varied tints of its green drapery, with all garden's choicest flowers bespangling it. Thus the millions who shall successively tread the mazes of these grounds, will find shelter and cool breezes; will have sight, scent, and hearing delighted amid the grove itself, and from beneath its foliage, will view in silent satisfaction the gorgeous, silent pile that fronts it with its beauty, as will the contemplated buildings when reared vis-a-vis to these grounds; while buildings on these grounds will hide more than half their beauties and prove a perpetual nuisance, the regret and condemnation of posterity.

What is the pride of Boston? Every voice responds, the common. Does any one regret its extent? Is there one man in that whole community would have it shorn of one foot of its dimensions? Were it practicable to make it three hundred acres instead of fifty, would it not be to its advantage and the gratification of all its citizens be proportionally increased?

Is not the city of New York dissatisfied with the paucity and extent of her public grounds, numerous though they be; and she is now robbing the waters of domain to enlarge her splendid Battery. Has she not for years been seeking such grounds, as in Washington are unhappily, in too small repute? Is she not now at the expense of several millions of dollars seeking to obtain parks, for the health and pleasure of her citizens and visitors?

These parks are, of necessity, on the outskirts of the city, accessible to, comparatively, few; but experience has so demonstrated the benefits of parks in cities, that these large sums are readily expended for them in these remote places; the best reparation, however, to posterity, they can make for the oversight of our ancestors. What would not New York go to the Pension office on business; in very many, probably in most cases, immediate resort is necessary to the Surgeon General's or to the Second Auditor's office; a messenger is despatched a distance, going and returning, of some fifteen squares, during which time the senator must wait; the messenger, unless he waits for written instructions, takes a verbal communication, liable half the time to be misstated or misapprehended. Meantime, the messenger has hardly left, when another senator or representative comes in; he

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stream; Baltimore, luckless Baltimore, shall we say, tasteless Baltimore, preferred the desolation of "the Monumental City" to "the City of Parks." And Baltimore, unwise Baltimore, like Washington, so jealous of any rival beauty to her marble monuments, stouly and with fatal success, resisted all efforts to give even breathing room to the towering monument on which stands the image of Pater Patrie. Alas poor Baltimore! she has not an oasis in all the desert of her brick and mortar, which of all the surviving residents to the securing a park around this monument, can recall his victory of that day, and not shed a tear of regret, that defeat had not been its fate. Yet, Baltimore, with even this great frailty, how many love these dearly still! The Cassandra warnings of that day, foretelling this regret, have reached realization. Will we of the present day at Washington, hoard up for old age and for posterity similar regrets and self-condemnation.

Who has ever heard of the two thousand acres of park in London, being a cause of complaint by the poorest or the most avaricious? It is the poorest classes in that great metropolis that would make rebellion at any purpose of robbing the city of these great treasures. Is the extent of grounds in Paris a subject of complaint by any one? Is the extent of public grounds in any city in the world a subject of complaint by any human being? Is not their circumscribed extent in almost every city a subject of universal regret? Shall we, therefore, disregard this universal lesson of all times, and of all cities, and omit, while it is in our power, to secure at least decent grounds for the mansion of the chief of this growing nation.

There are two squares, one on the east and another on the west side of Lafayette square, of dimensions sufficient for the contemplated buildings. These squares can, in all probability, be purchased on reasonable terms, certainly for a much less sum than has been, and is being spent for mere ornament to the Capitol alone; and no one will question that for ornament and habitual use, the grounds secured by the removal of all the buildings on the President's square, except the mansion, would be preferred universally to all the ornaments of all the public buildings. If, indeed, the question were put to the vote in this District and throughout the Union whether they would not prefer the Capitol itself, to be of plain brick, wholly destitute of ornament, and retain these grounds cleared from the disgrace of its buildings, there would come up from every quarter one unanimous amen! A failure now to secure the ground, is a failure forever. The subject has been debated in Congress and the razing the Treasury building to the earth, when nearly completed failed by a single vote, and but for personal considerations, would have passed. The two squares above mentioned are most eligibly situated, giving full scope of vision, from a great distance, of the architectural beauty of the edifices which may be erected on them. They will be light and airy, accessible from all four sides, and by their proximity afford a facility to the transaction of business hitherto unknown. None of these advantages would be had in an equal degree by buildings on the President's square, which now is a mere thoroughfare, shamefully so; a perpetual thoroughfare, and passing through the very portico of the mansion itself. Besides which, the present buildings could be occupied without annoyance, while the new buildings are being erected on the two squares mentioned; but to build on the President's square, would cause confusion, annoyance, and destruction to trees of very many years growth in the grounds of the President's square.

For these reasons and for very many others which might be urged, the belief is entertained that the President's square should not be desecrated by additional buildings.

HOW SLAVES ARE CARED FOR IN THE SOUTH.

The abolitionists are constantly representing the southern people as taking delight in imposing onerous burdens on their slaves, and as taking great pleasure in inflicting on them cruel punishments. They are represented as relentless oppressors, hard-hearted task masters, and fierce and relentless tyrants. The testimony of the slaves themselves on these points, is very different from that of their pretended abolition friends and sympathizers.

Any man who is at all familiar with the habits of southern people, with the institution of slavery, with the relation that subsists between master and slave, knows that there are sentiments of affection and tenderness between the two, that do not exist in any other condition of servitude.

We have known many instances of slaves, who when offered their freedom have taken the offer in high dudgeon, and indignantly declined it. They took it as an act of unkindness on the part of their masters to propose the dissolution of the bonds that had so long united them.

But the other day a case occurred in Virginia that administers a flat contradiction and an emphatic rebuke to the abolitionists. A gentleman in the county of Nottingham died, leaving a will which manumitted his slaves. Unwilling to be free, and attached to their master's family, they applied to the legislature, which has just adjourned, for legal permission to remain as slaves in his family. It is needless to comment at length on this case. It is sufficiently suggestive of itself.

The abolitionists are also accustomed to declare that the life of a slave is no better protected than that of a dog; that they are burnt, butchered, shot, impaled, and drawn and quartered with impunity. Let the following case, which has just occurred in the heart of the south, speak on this point:

"On Thursday last, Thomas Motley and William Blackledge, two white men convicted of the murder of a slave, were hung at Waterboro, South Carolina, in pursuance of their sentence. The criminals had numerous influential friends, and it was feared that an effort for their rescue would be made. They were, therefore, escorted by a strong military force from the jail at Charleston to the scene of the execution, and there hung in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. We are informed that the prompt and vigorous execution of the law was warmly approved by the popular sentiment of the people of that section—the most ultra pro-slavery of the whole south. One fact is worth a hundred theories, and we commend the fate of these two *Legislators* to the admirers of Uncle Tom's Cabin, who believe that cruelty to the negro is a venial crime at the south. Will the anti-slavery journals, whose souls are harrowed up by an acute sense

of the cruelties inflicted upon the poor slave, have any word of approval for this vindication of the rights of the slave. We shall see."

The enemies of the Nebraska bill take great comfort to themselves from the election of a whig mayor in Detroit. We are sorry to disturb their rejoicing, but candor compels us to tell them, that Nebraska had no more to do with this election, than the man in the moon. We say this on the authority of the Detroit press. Nebraska was, an after thought with these wily tacticians.

In like manner, these gentlemen run off into raptures if they hear of any southern journal or southern man expressing opposition to this bill, no matter what the grounds of objection may be. If it be on the ground that it is not sufficiently favorable to the south, the anti-Nebraska men roll it, as a sweet morsel, under their tongues.

Well, they have but few things to encourage them, and it would be cruel to deny them a few crumbs of comfort. Let them catch at straws, for they are drowning men.

Communicated.

An Ocean Penny Postage Already Established by Law.

To the Editors of the Washington Sentinel:

GENTLEMEN: It is a curious fact, that, at the very moment that Mr. Perry paid at the rate of one cent a copy, a navy packet of newspapers done up in the letter form, there was an express enactment in the postal laws of the United States by which the captain of a sailing ship can only be allowed two cents for conveying a letter across the ocean, from any direction, or from any distance. If an American sailing ship, on leaving Shanghai, or any other Chinese port, for New York, should take on board a bag of letters from the sailors of the American squadron in those seas, the captain, on his arrival, could only receive two cents apiece for the transit service. Then why may he not convey back to Shanghai a bag of letters from the parents, brothers and sisters of those sailors at the same rate? What right has any government to charge a farthing more for the inland service on letters that cross the sea, than for the same service on letters posted and delivered within its dominion? If a letter be conveyed from Boston to Canton for two cents, on what principle of justice can the Chinese authorities charge the receiver anything additional for that transit service? It is certainly a remarkable postal anomaly, that letters may be conveyed from New York to the very ship's sides, as it were, of the American squadron in the Chinese ports, for two cents per half ounce, but when once aboard of those ships the charge is increased to one dollar for the same weight! Nor is this anomaly confined to this direction. It exists, between the United States and Great Britain. For years, sailing ships have conveyed letters between the two countries at two cents apiece. And now powerful screw steamships are plying across the Atlantic; and they are conveying letters for two cents each. The agent of one of these companies has offered repeatedly to perform this transit service on any amount of letters at this low rate. Then on what principle of justice and equity, can either our office charge anything more than its established inland rate on a letter that has thus crossed the sea? At the present time, the whole postage on a single letter from any town in the United States to any town in Great Britain, is twenty-four cents; of which three cents are for the American inland, two cents for the British inland, and consequently nineteen cents are for the ocean transit. If then, sailing vessels and screw steamships are actually performing this transit service for two cents, why should the whole postage on such a letter be more than *seen* cents? I hope your readers, Messrs. Editors, will revolve these questions in their minds, and decide to exert their influence in favor of a *universal ocean penny post*. E. H. BURRITT.

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1854.

THRILLING AND MELANCHOLY CATASTROPHE.

A correspondent of the Lexington (Va.) Gazette gives the full particulars of a fearful occurrence on James river, at Balcony falls, on Saturday, 21st of January.

The canal boat Clinton, Captain Wood, with about fifty persons on board, principally negro hands, on their way to the Central railroad, attempted to proceed up river to Buchanan. Just after passing the North river bridge, a tow-line broke, and the boat drifted down the stream. The river being very much swollen, the bottom could not be reached with poles, and consequently the boat was completely at the mercy of the current. About a hundred yards above the mountain dam, five persons jumped off, and attempted to swim ashore, but were soon overtaken by the swollen river. Mr. Paine, of Fredericksburg, and two negroes.

By the skillful management of the captain, who held the tiller, the boat leaped the dam in safety, and rapidly approached the White rock, the Little and Great Tobacco falls, and the Tobacco hills, places which, the writer says, formerly made the holdest heart quake under a foot of water. As the boat passed under a foot of the White rock, the captain and four or five persons jumped out, and were left on the rock in the middle of the river, with the water raging around them. The boat hurried by, and, escaping several dangers, hung lightly on a rock near the Tobacco hills.

Persons on shore now undertook to rescue the five or six men clinging to the White rock. A bateau was dragged some distance and launched in the river, the water still rising, and the wind blowing a perfect hurricane through the gap of the mountain. Frank Padgett, an experienced boatman, and Messrs. Matthews and McColligan, and two negroes, embarked in the bateau, and at great personal risk succeeded in bringing the party safely to shore.

By this time the water had risen enough to float the canal-boat again, which was carried headlong through the Tobacco hills, and caught on a small island below. On her passage, one of the negroes on board had leaped upon a flat rock, where he stood without his coat, wet with spray and shivering with cold, imploring help. The bateau under command of Padgett could not reach him, and proceeded on towards the others, all of whom were rescued.

The question then arose whether the man on the rock could be saved. The brave-hearted Padgett thought he could, and the same men and two more embarked with him to make the attempt. Just as they reached the rock, and the man had jumped on board, the bateau struck and was crushed to splinters. Five of the party leaped on the rock, one clung to an oar and drifted to land, but Padgett and the man they had gone to rescue were drowned.

Some time elapsed before another bateau could be obtained. At last it arrived and was launched, but a negro suffered it to be carried off, and it was dashed to pieces on the rocks. The bateau was then dragged to the shore, and the party leaped on the rock, one clung to an oar and drifted to land, but Padgett and the man they had gone to rescue were drowned.

The ANGLER FISH.—Upon his head are two long slender appendages; the first of them—broad and flattened towards the end, and having at this dilated part, a shining silvery appearance—is articulated to the head by a peculiar joint, resembling that between two links of a chain. There are numerous muscles attached by which the fish is enabled to move it in all directions. The second fishing-rod, as it may be properly called, can be moved only in backward and forward direction. Digging a hole in the soft mud, this wary fisherman conceals his body, and then by moving his

English Miscellany.

From the North British Review.

PROBABLE CONCERT OF AMERICA.—The retirement of England and France from the scene, to leave Turkey to such fate as her own unaided resources could command, would probably be the signal for the immediate interference of our transatlantic brethren, not perhaps, as a nation, but as volunteers. If Hungary were to rise, their intervention would be certain; and Hungary would rise if American aid were known to be at hand. We can state positively that men, money, and arms are already waiting and anxious for an opening. The whole nation, as is well known, (and the government of the United States must soon follow the nation,) is longing to obtain a footing in the arena of European politics; and Turkey, abandoned by her old allies, and left to the mercy of the great despot of the world, would offer too tempting, too honorable, and too just an occasion, to be neglected. Nor could we say to them, we have pronounced Russia to be wrong, and we could not interfere to prevent assistance being offered to the right. And we may be well assured, that if the Americans did come upon the stage, their proceedings would be conducted in a very different mode, and guided by a very different spirit from our scrupulous and timid policy—always hampered by traditional ideas, always bound to official forms, always restrained by the fear of too signal a success, always confused, thwarted, and enfeebled by ulterior considerations. Nor could their success be very doubtful. They are the very best sailors in the world, and among the hardest soldiers; they are, together, a navy and an army, capable of destroying that of Russia; they have boundless wealth, and would not spare it were the national zeal once fairly roused; and, as we once before remarked, they present the most formidable combination of qualities which it is possible to encounter—the utmost hardness of savage life with the most unbounded resources of civilization and science. We ought to curb our selfishness, and therefore, if only to anticipate America in doing so.

From the Glasgow Commonwealth.

ACCOUNT OF THE NATURAL SELF-ACTING PRINTING PROCESS.—This beautiful invention, recently made in Vienna by M. Auer, director of the imperial Austrian government printing office, is, we believe, not known in England. An account of it in English, with twelve beautiful quarto specimens of the results obtained by it, has just been sent to us by a correspondent in Vienna, and we hasten to give it to our readers. By means of this art, plates are produced "for printing copies of plants, materials, lace, embroideries," &c. These plates contain the most delicate hollows, and elevations, which the human eye is unable to detect, and they are capable of producing two results on paper; the one a copy of the original on a soft ground, in various colors, with one single impression, and the other a copy in white, on a colored ground. The first of these is obtained by the copper-plate press, and the second by the ordinary printing press, and the effect is obtained in both instances, without the aid of drawing or engraving.

In taking the impression of a dried plant, or a leaf, or an insect, the object is placed on a polished surface of pure lead, and above the object is placed a polished plate of copper or steel. The two plates are then passed through the two cylinders of a copper-plate-printer's press, which gives a momentary pressure of from 800 to 1,000 hundred weight. After separating the plates, it will be found that the tissue of the plant has been pressed into the lead plate, and when the substance is carefully removed from the plate, the design appears hollow upon its surface. From this mould, plates fit for printing from may be obtained, either by the electrolyte or the usual stereotype process.

When lace or any fabric is to be copied, it is smeared over with spirits of wine, or Venetian turpentine, before being laid upon the lead plate.

The price of impressions thus obtained is so moderate, that a leaf in foil will cost only from eight to twelve kreutzers, that is, from three pence to five pence.

The Chevalier von Heuffner has published, by means of this process, a collection of the cryptographic plants from the vale of Arpsart, in Transylvania.

M. Auer took out a patent for this process on the 12th of October, 1852, but in the month of France, who gave up the daguerreotype for general use in 1839, and of Russia, who gave up the electrolyte of Jacobo in 1837, the Emperor of Austria has given up this new process to the public. The specimens of this art which we have received surpass our highest expectations. We can scarcely believe that the plant itself is not pressed into the shape.

A WONDERFUL ESCAPE.—It will be recollected that during the dreadful gale of the 12th of October, 1852, but in the month of France, who gave up the daguerreotype for general use in 1839, and of Russia, who gave up the electrolyte of Jacobo in 1837, the Emperor of Austria has given up this new process to the public. The specimens of this art which we have received surpass our highest expectations. We can scarcely believe that the plant itself is not pressed into the shape.

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A WONDERFUL ESCAPE.—It will be recollected that during the dreadful gale of the 12th of October, 1852, but in the month of France, who gave up the daguerreotype for general use in 1839, and of Russia, who gave up the electrolyte of Jacobo in 1837, the Emperor of Austria has given up this new process to the public. The specimens of this art which we have received surpass our highest expectations. We can scarcely believe that the plant itself is not pressed into the shape.

Loss of the Bona Dea.

The following are some further particulars of the terrible experience of the shipwrecked crew of the Bona Dea. When the ship struck on Monday, January 25, at 8 at night, she lay on her broadside for some time. The crew succeeded in cutting away the main and mizzen shrouds, and the main boom, and she righted. But everything had been washed out of the cabin and steerage. They had not a single thing left—not a morsel of bread or a drop of water. They managed to get an old sail over the stump of the mizen-mast and lash themselves there, although they expected every moment that the poop would go to pieces, as two of the main beams of it were gone. They remained in that situation all that day and night. On Thursday, January 26, the men continued to keep up their spirits. They broke down the ceiling in the cabin in the hopes of finding some crumbs of bread or something else, but in vain; none were to be found. It was still the same day that they had not a morsel of food or water. Towards night some of the men complained of thirst, but remained quite reasonable and manageable. The next day it was still blowing a gale, and heavy seas lashed the deck. At daylight they saw a barque running to the eastward, not more than three miles from the wreck. The morning was rather hazy, and they either did not or would not take notice of the wreck, as she passed by without offering them assistance. They felt this a sore disappointment; but they cheered one another up with the hopes of soon falling in with another. They were unable to restrain themselves from drinking salt water. In the course of the day a rat was caught and divided equally among them.

On the 27th of January, the ship was under water, and the gale blowing as furiously as ever. Saw from the poop that the stem and outwater were torn away, and the covering board on each side were started. The forecastle head was gone with some of the guard-irons of the foregigging, and several buttles outside started. They drank large quantities of salt water during the day, besides chewing lead and bits of rope. Sunday, the wind and sea as heavy as ever. Saw two ships not more than three miles from them. Strange as it may appear, neither of them took any notice of their awful position; they passed so close that they distinguished all the sails, spars, &c. The horrors of starvation now broke upon them, and the first was almost maddening.

At night discovered a kitten, which had crawled out from below; it was instantly killed and greedily devoured. Symptoms of insanity presented itself among some of the men. They were still without water, and all in a very exhausted state; their legs and feet began to swell very much. Monday.—The weather nothing abated. Drinking immense quantities of salt water. Still blowing almost a hurricane. Most of them now were despair; some were delirious, and others commenced talking about sacrificing one of the number to save the rest from being starved to death. The men proposed that they should draw lots to decide who it should be. At five o'clock in the evening, saw a large ship standing to the NW. They were all unable to see her till she was within a few miles of them. Mr. Pickering, the master rocket maker, on hearing the sound, rushed to the building, and with great presence of mind threw some pails of water over the burning cases, which, if not extinguished, might have proved the most fatal consequences. The men flew in all directions; but Mr. Pickering, who has preserved many lives before, and appeared to be a dashing sailor, was the first to rush through the dense smoke, and without fearing the fatal consequences, with the greatest caution and presence of mind extinguished all before the arrival of the engine or assistance.

[Kensington Mercury.]

THE COLLIERIES EXPLOSION AT WIGAN.—Our local correspondent transmits some further particulars of this appalling occurrence. In addition to the telegraphic report published yesterday, it appears that the engine-driver and the bankman in charge of the "pit-brow" had no suspicion of danger until the afternoon, when a loud report, as of an explosion underground, was heard, and was quickly succeeded by a series of reports of a similar character. The sudden rush of air, smoke, and dust from the upcast shaft which follows these dreadful occurrences. It was now known to those at the top what had occurred, and they began to take immediate steps to rescue the colliers below. An alarm was spread to the neighboring mines, so that other colliers might be obtained, to volunteer to go down and search for the missing men. A number of colliers had been signalled to be drawn up, and five cage loads (probably forty persons in all) were wound up the shaft. These had been at work in the south levels, and came to the top almost unscathed; but they reported that the north levels were on fire near the bottom of the shaft, thus cutting off the retreat of colliers, and exposing them with life after the first burst of the explosion, or at least rendering their escape much more hazardous than at first supposed. Nearly three hours elapsed before this fire could be extinguished, so as to enable the searchers to proceed into the levels. Heaps of the dead and mutilated remains of the colliers had to be passed and left for a time in the shaft, to be removed to the surface, and to be given to the living. One of the first men brought to the surface alive, from the north levels, was James Murphy, a collier, who had been working at the very far end, or 1,200 yards from the pit-shaft. He and another man, it appears, on feeling the shock of the explosion, started towards the shaft, but, on reaching a point in the level where the sulphur was stored, they were overcome by the force of the explosion, and were hurled back, whilst Murphy, resolutely putting his cap between his teeth, ran towards the shaft and was saved. The other man was lost. About twenty minutes to 8 o'clock at night a man and boy were taken out much exhausted with sulphur, and soon afterwards another man was found, who was so far spent that he has been insensible ever since. It will, doubtless, be remembered that the escape of the men from the north workings during Saturday evening, and those were the last. All that were found during the night, and on Sunday, had been killed. Forty dead bodies had been discovered on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock, the number had been increased to seventy. On Sunday night, at a late hour, eighty-seven men had been recovered and brought up from the mine. Yesterday the search was perseveringly continued; but, as the rule adopted is to keep all bodies in the mine until night-fall, no information could be obtained before our reporter left as to whether the number had been increased. A collier, whose life has been saved, and who was well acquainted with his fellow workmen, thinks there are not many lives lost, as we do not recover more than 120, but says there will probably be over 100. It appears that no accurate list of workpeople was kept by the firm, as the colliers frequently take down assistants without giving their names.

NEWS FROM INDIA IN TEN DAYS.—Within a twelve-month of the present date, a railway will be completed from Ostend to Trieste. Letters, passengers, and parcels will then occupy little more than two days from the shores of the Channel to those of the Adriatic; four days more will take them to Egypt, and by the aid of the railroad from Alexandria to Cairo, now rapidly advancing, they may within 36 hours be afloat on the Red sea, and in twelve days thereafter be safe in Bombay, or within a few weeks of their leaving England. Within this week the electric telegraph, now preparing to date the shores of the Mediterranean, will have reached Suez, and the 4,000 miles of wire, which have already reached Calcutta, will connect every great town in India with the port of Bombay, so that, before the year 1856 expires, we shall have communication by electric telegraph from London to Bombay in twenty-four hours, and by steamer and rail from Bombay in twenty-one.—English paper.

THE BRIGHTON (ENG.) HERALD SAYS: "A correspondent well informed upon the subject, assures us that Colt's revolvers—pistols—have been generally introduced among the crews of the Russian fleet. Now, we need hardly say that it is with the pistol and the cut-throat razor that the Russian fleet is chiefly done, and a set of boarders armed with six-barrelled pistols would have an immeasurable superiority over the crew of a ship not so armed, whilst these latter would be exposed to almost inevitable defeat, if met in their boarding attack by men so armed. We trust that the attention of the government will be drawn to the fact, that the Russian fleet is now in the Black sea or Baltic, on equal terms with their adversaries."

NARROW ESCAPE AT THE ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH.—On Saturday morning, about 11 o'clock, a loud explosion took place in one of the rocket sheds, owing to a 24-pound rocket bursting in the mould, and injuring three persons, namely, Smith and Carpenter, and another that took Mr. Pickering, the master rocket maker, on hearing the sound, rushed to the building, and with great presence of mind threw some pails of water over the burning cases, which, if not extinguished, might have proved the most fatal consequences. The men